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No. 21

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 25, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Remember you are dust; and unto dust you will return."

Lord God, it was You who first spoke these words to Adam and Eve. Year after year, throughout every epic of recorded history, Your word echoes with humbling judgment. You remind us how frail and faulty human life really is. But You also give us time to change and become Your children of light.

Success, honor and all possessions sift through our fingers. Nothing truly lasts, except You, O Lord. The dawn of new life and the cycle of death follow each other as surely as daylight follows nighttime.

May personal conscience and the narration of humanity's crimes against humanity call forth repentance and efforts to set things right. So let the ashes of human deeds cry out to You.

O Divine Forgiveness, recreate Your people out of the ashes. Your phoenix flame can set us free. Your mercy endures forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RYUN of Kansas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 264. Concurrent resolution authorizing and requesting the President to issue a proclamation to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Constantino Brumidi.

H. Con. Res. 358. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of "History of the United States Capitol" as a House document.

H. Con. Res. 359. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

### PROTECTING UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow this body will vote on Laci and Conner's Law, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. This bill would make it a Federal crime to kill or harm an unborn child in the act of a Federal crime against a pregnant woman.

Opponents of this bill claim that this is about abortion. They are wrong. This bill actually protects the expecting mother. The bill identifies 68 existing Federal laws dealing with acts of violence and expands them to include harm to an unborn child.

In upholding Minnesota's unborn victims law, the Minnesota Supreme Court said, "The possibility that a female homicide victim may be pregnant is a possibility that an assaulter may not safely exclude."

Over half the States have unborn victims protection laws on the books. Many have been upheld by State courts. None have affected access to abortion.

Let us put politics aside and pass this bill. We need to protect victims of violent crime and their unborn children, and the bill does that. It offers a defense for those who cannot defend themselves. It makes criminals think twice before attacking a pregnant woman.

### COMMENDING BILL MCNEAL ON BEING NAMED THE NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Bill McNeal on being named the National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. I have worked with Bill for many years, and no one is more deserving than he is of this award.

Since the year 2000, Bill has served with distinction as the Superintendent of Wake County Public Schools in my congressional district in North Carolina. Wake County is a diverse community and one of the fastest-growing school systems in America.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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